

CAIRNS
ART
GALLERY

22 APRIL -
11 JUNE 2023

**STAGED
PHOTOGRAPHY**

ARTWORK LABELS

William YANG

b. 1943

1. ***Self Portrait #1*** n.d.
2. ***My relatives in Innisfail #1*** n.d.
3. ***Herbert See Poy #1*** 1990
4. ***Herbert See Poy's living room***
(diptych) 1994
5. ***My family in front of our old home***
1990
6. ***My relatives in Innisfail #2*** n.d.
7. ***Herbert See Poy's house*** 1994
8. ***Joss house, Atherton #1*** 1990
9. ***Remnants of Joss house,
Cairns #1*** 1995

gelatin silver photograph

Commissioned by Cairns Regional Gallery, 2000

Charles PAGE

b. 1946

1. ***Portrait of Ray Crooke***
2. ***Portrait of David Wallis***
3. ***Portrait of David Hudson***
4. ***Portrait of Mr and Mrs
John Charles O'Donnell***
5. ***Portrait of Wendy Craig Duncan***
6. ***Portrait of John Tindall***
7. ***Portrait of Wanda and Chris***
8. ***Portrait of Mrs Joan Right***
9. ***Portrait of Dr Thomas Jancik***
10. ***Portrait of Tom Morgon, Dennis
Addley and Gary Oliver***
11. ***Portrait of Victor Mellick***
12. ***Portrait of Fran and Ken Brenton***
13. ***Portrait of Danae Jones***
14. ***Portrait of Kristen Dale***

2001

gelatin silver photograph

Commissioned by Cairns Regional Gallery, 2001

Charles PAGE

b. 1946

1. ***Portrait of Letty Cuddihy***
2. ***Portrait of bondage and domination mistress***
3. ***Portrait of Swami***
4. ***Portrait of the Hon. Warren Entsch MP***

2001

gelatin silver photograph

Commissioned by Cairns Regional Gallery, 2001

Naomi HOBSON

b. 1979

Southern Kaantju and Umpila

1. **Road Play**

She told Mum she was taking me for a ride down the road but she not. Laine

2. **Time Joe**

What time there Joe? Can't take too long... have to go shop soon before it closes at four, pick my supply up for the weekend. Jimmy

3. **Young Love**

We been going out for nearly 12 months now. Kurtis is from Pormpaaraw. You know them Shortjoe mob? well that's his mob. Ratarni

4. **A Bed No-more**

I knew I would find him back here... he still thinking about our flower garden we use to have, aye Mick? And over there was where we tried to grow vegetables, beans and pumpkin. Mark

from the **Adolescent Wonderland** series

2019

digital print

Purchased Cairns Art Gallery, 2019

Naomi HOBSON

b. 1979

Southern Kaantju and Umpila

1. ***The God Mother***
2. ***The God Child***
3. ***The God Father***
4. ***The Promised One***
5. ***The Grandmother and
The God Son***
6. ***The Grandfather***
7. ***The Great Grandmother***
8. ***The God Brother***
9. ***The God Daughter***
10. ***The God Son***
11. ***The God Parents***
12. ***The God Brothers***

from the ***January First*** series

2020-2021

digital print

Courtesy of the artist and ReDot Fine Art Gallery,
Singapore

Allira CHARLES

b. 1996

Lardil and Kaiadilt

David VARGA

Netta Loogatha

2018

digital print

Purchased Cairns Art Gallery, 2018

Sharni WALPO

b. 2000

Lardil and Kaiadilt

David VARGA

Dolly Loogatha

2018

digital print

Purchased Cairns Art Gallery, 2018

Allira CHARLES

b. 1996

Lardil and Kaiadilt

David VARGA

Ethel Thomas

2018

digital print

Purchased Cairns Art Gallery, 2018

Ezekiel DICK

b. 2000

Lardil

David VARGA

Amy Loogatha

2018

digital print

Purchased Cairns Art Gallery, 2018

Simone ARNOL

b. 1976

Gunggandji

1. ***Bishop Arthur Malcolm***
2. ***Bishop Arthur Malcolm***
3. ***Bishop Arthur Malcolm***
4. ***Uncle David Mundraby***
5. ***Uncle David Mundraby***
6. ***Uncle David Mundraby***
7. ***Nathan Schrieber***
8. ***Nathan Schrieber***
9. ***Nathan Schrieber***

from the ***Cross Country*** series

2022

digital print

Purchased with funds donated by the Cairns Art Gallery
Foundation, 2022

Commissioned by Cairns Art Gallery

Dr Christian THOMPSON AO

b. 1974

Bidjara

When Everything is Known and Knowable

2022

C-type print

Purchased Cairns Art Gallery 2022.

Commissioned by Cairns Art Gallery

Dr Christian THOMPSON AO

b. 1974

Bidjara

We're The Future, We're The Past

2022

C-type print

Courtesy of the artist and Michael Reid Sydney + Berlin

Michael COOK

b. 1968

Bidjara

1. ***Livin' the dream (Sold)***
2. ***Livin' the dream (Welcome home)***
3. ***Livin' the dream (Birthday)***
4. ***Livin' the dream (BBQ)***
5. ***Livin' the dream (For sale)***

from the ***Livin' the dream*** series

2020

inkjet print

Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program by Michael Cook, 2021

Simone Arnol is a Gunggandji woman whose photographic portraits explore issues of identity through placement of her subjects in different times, settings and contexts.

Born in Yarrabah in 1934, Arthur Malcolm became an ordained priest in 1959 and was made responsible for the missionary communities of Yarrabah and Palm Island. He became the first Aboriginal Anglican bishop while being a passionate advocate for Aboriginal peoples.

David Mundraby, an Elder of the Yidinji Mandingalbay and keeper of the Law and Song, has dedicated his life to teaching Yarrabah children about their culture. The Yalma (cross boomerang) that he holds symbolises his belief that traditional culture is his religion.

Nathan Schrieber is a Gunggandji man and Traditional Owner of Yarrabah and is passionate about revitalising Gunggay language and teaching children about their culture. He holds and wears a traditional Yarrabah headdress to represent the importance of traditional cultural ways.

William Yang is best known as a photographer of people. Born a third-generation Chinese Australian, Yang grew up in Dimbulah on the Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland and describes his upbringing as one in which his Chinese ethnicity *'was suppressed and unacknowledged'*.

After studying architecture at Queensland University, Yang moved to Sydney where he met a Chinese teacher who encouraged him to embrace and explore his Chinese heritage. In the 1990s he travelled to Far North Queensland where he learnt about his family history from relatives as well as the long history of the Chinese in North Queensland and across Australia.

Although Yang has lived in Sydney most of his life, he has a deep bond with the people and the landscapes of North Queensland as this was where he grew up, and where he calls home. His photographs capture images of relatives and friends, exploring their lives as well as his own cultural and family connections and identity.

Charles Page is one of Queensland's most important documentary photographers. He studied photography at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. He worked as a photographer for many years before moving to take up a lecturing position with the Queensland College of Art.

Page's photography extends from documenting the mundane to the extremes of human life. Over an extensive career, Page travelled widely, photographing wars, everyday life, and the built and natural environments in more than 70 countries including Chechnya, Somalia and Antarctica.

In 2000 he was commissioned by the Cairns Regional Gallery to produce a portfolio of photographs that would capture people and places of Far North Queensland. It is an intriguing collection of photographs of the well-known and not so well-known figures of the day. Each of Page's photographs is carefully staged to reveal the public and private lives of his sitters.

Christian Thompson is a Bidjara man of the Kunja Nation from central western Queensland. He is regarded as one of Australia's most important and respected contemporary artists.

Thompson's works explore complex notions of identity, cultural hybridity and history. He is interested in the performative, and in his art he adopts different personas using costumes, adornments and disguises sourced from different histories and traditions.

Thompson grew up in an urban environment and often interweaves references to Bidjara culture, such as gestures and songs, with elements of pop culture to address issues of colonialism, sexuality, and cultural representation. In his portraits Aboriginal faces are often partially hidden amongst native flowers - a device that allows him to reflect on issues of identity as a state of being that can be lost or disguised.

Michael Cook is an Indigenous artist who worked for many years as a commercial photographer before becoming a photographic artist. Cook is renowned for his ability to engage audiences in dialogues about what is real and what is imaginary.

Livin' the dream is a series of photographs that explores complex issues of identity, dislocation and inequality, through depictions of an Aboriginal nuclear family who are transplanted into a remote outback community. While the Jones family brings with them 1960s aspirational white accoutrements that include an EH Holden car, swimming pool, boat, and smart clothes, everything about them suggests a sense of deep bewilderment as they struggle to identify themselves in an unfamiliar context where not even their material possessions can protect them from discomfort.

Cook's photographs include symbolic details which reference the social consequences of white colonisation, as well as depictions of items of popular culture that were part of his own formative years of mixed ancestry.

Naomi Hobson lives and works in the remote community of Coen, Far North Queensland, where she plays an important role as an artist, mentor, and creative inspiration.

In 2019 she created *Adolescent Wonderland* a series of twenty-two photographic portraits which present narratives around issues of black representation, identity, and sexuality in her community through the eyes and lives of young teenagers. Through these photographs, the viewer experiences a range of emotions, including humour and compassion, while empathising with the raw vulnerability and fragility of adolescents growing up in remote Indigenous communities in Far North Queensland.

Naomi Hobson lives and works in the remote community of Coen, Far North Queensland, where she plays an important role as an artist, mentor, and creative inspiration.

Hobson's *January First* series is a new body of work, comprising photographic portraits that documents a contemporary local custom performed at the start of the New Year. Each year, white powder, clay or flour is rubbed on the face of family members as part of a performative process of letting go of inhibitions between partners, parents and children and extended members of the family. It can also acknowledge the letting go of deceased loved ones.

In 2018, young Kaiadilt artists from the Mornington Island, Ezekiel Dick, Allira Charles and Sharni Walpo, travelled to their ancestral home of Bentinck Island with four Elders/artists Amy Loogatha, Dolly Loogatha, Netta Loogatha and Ethel Thomas (nee Loogatha).

These women had grown up on Bentinck Island before Presbyterian missionaries forcibly relocated the entire population to Mornington Island in the 1940s. Once relocated parents and children were separated and boys and girls were segregated and forcibly detained in dormitories. After decades of negotiation, in 1986 Kaiadilt people were finally permitted to return to Bentinck Island for up to six months during the Dry season.

For the returning Elders, the journey to Bentinck Island was a deeply moving experience, which is captured in the series of photographic portraits taken by the young artists.

Sydney-based photo-journalist David Varga, travelled with the group and mentored the young artists in the use of high-tech equipment and photographic techniques. Varga then collaborated with the artists to create powerful images that speak across time and place.